



**In Arkansas,
over half of
adults have had
one or more
permanent
teeth removed.**

**Arkansas
Behavioral
Risk Factor
Surveillance
System**

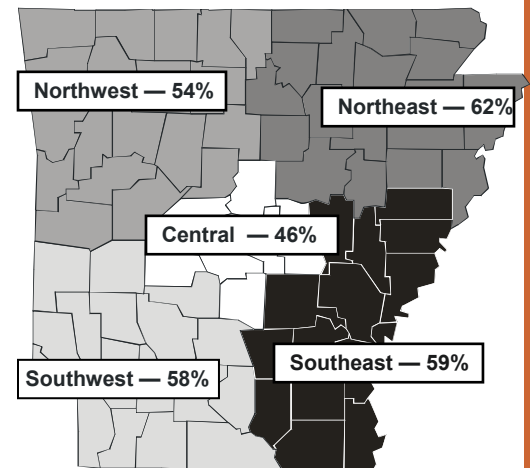
ORAL HEALTH AMONG ADULTS IN ARKANSAS, 2008

THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL HEALTH

- ◆ According the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, gum disease and tooth decay are the most common causes of tooth loss.
- ◆ Over one million (54%) Arkansas adults have had one or more permanent teeth removed because of gum disease or tooth decay.
- ◆ Arkansas adults (54%) are more likely than U.S. adults (44%) to have had one or more permanent teeth removed because of gum disease or tooth decay.
- ◆ Adults age 45 and over in Arkansas are more likely (15%) to have had all their natural teeth removed compared to U.S. adults (10%).

PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

The map to the right displays the percent of adults, by public health region, who have had one or more permanent teeth removed because of gum disease or tooth decay .



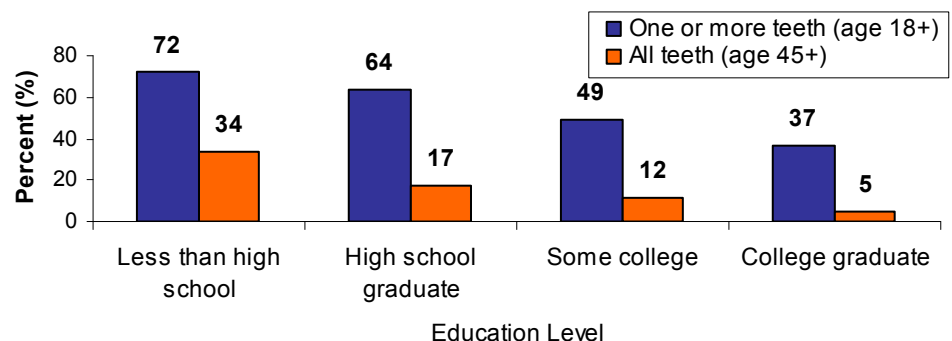
GENDER

Women (58%) are more likely than men (50%) to have had one or more permanent teeth removed because of gum disease or tooth decay. Among adults age 45 and over, women (15%) are just as likely as men (14%) to have lost all their permanent teeth.

EDUCATION

The risk of having teeth removed because of gum disease or tooth decay varies by education level, as shown in the graph below.

Teeth Removal by Education Level

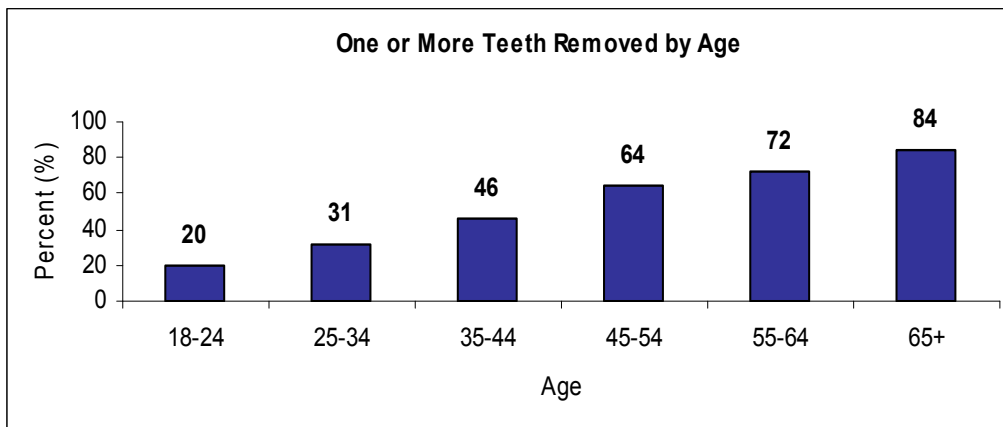


RACE/ETHNICITY

In Arkansas, African American adults (60%) are as likely as white adults (53%) to have had one or more permanent teeth removed. Among adults age 45 and over, African Americans are also just as likely to have lost all their permanent teeth compared to whites (14% for both groups).

AGE

The percent of adults who have had one or more permanent teeth removed varies by age, as shown in the graph below.



METROPOLITAN VS. NON-METROPOLITAN*

In Arkansas, adults who live in non-metropolitan areas (61%) are more likely to have had one more permanent teeth removed compared to those who live in metropolitan areas (48%). Among adults age 45 and over, adults in non-metropolitan areas are also more likely to have lost all their permanent teeth (18%) compared to adults in metropolitan areas (12%).

Adults living in non-metropolitan areas are more likely to have had one or more permanent teeth removed and they are less likely to report visiting the dentist in the past year.

ARKANSAS ADULTS VISIT THE DENTIST

64% of adults in Arkansas have visited the dentist in the past year.

The following adults are less likely to visit the dentist:

- ◆ Adults who have not attended college.
- ◆ Adults living in non-metropolitan areas.

57% of adults have had their teeth cleaned in the past year.

*Metropolitan areas of Arkansas include center cities, counties containing center cities, and suburban counties. Any areas outside of metropolitan areas are considered non-metropolitan.

For more information, visit <http://brfss.arkansas.gov>